

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3 and 30-63, without prejudice.

Please replace the indicated claims with the following amended versions:

A14
1. (Amended) A construct comprising a homogeneous conjugate of formula A-L-P, wherein

A represents a hepatic ligand that specifically binds to a hepatic receptor, thereby facilitating the entrance of said conjugate into cells having said receptor;

L represents a bifunctional linker that is covalently linked to A in a regiospecific manner to form A-L; A-L is covalently linked to P in a regiospecific manner to form A-L-P;

P represents a biologically stable oligomer that binds to a hepatic pathogen, wherein P is released from the conjugate following hydrolysis or reduction of at least one specific biochemical linkage, and contains internucleotide linkages resistant to enzymatic hydrolysis or biodegradation upon release from the conjugate.

A15
4. (Amended) The construct of claim 1, wherein said pathogen is a hepatic virus.

5. (Amended) The construct of claim 1, wherein said pathogen is a liver parasite.

6. (Amended) The construct of claim 4, wherein said hepatic virus is a hepatitis virus.

8. (Amended) The construct of claim 4, wherein said oligomer binds to a surface antigen of said hepatic virus.

A16
9. (Amended) The construct of claim 4, wherein said oligomer binds to a core antigen of said hepatic virus.

10. (Amended) The construct of claim 4, wherein said oligomer binds to an encapsidation sequence of said hepatic virus.

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13. (Amended) The construct of claim 5, wherein said liver parasite is plasmodium for malaria.

A18
17. (Amended) The construct of claim 6, wherein said oligomer comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of GTTCTCCATGTTAG (SEQ ID NO.: 27), TTTATAAGGGTCGATGTCCAT (SEQ ID NO.: 28), and AAAGCCACCCAAGGCA (SEQ ID NO.: 29).

A19
18. (Amended) The construct of claim 2, wherein said oligomer comprises deoxyribose methylphosphonate internucleotide linkagees.

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22. (Amended) The construct of claim 2, wherein said oligomer comprises a combination of deoxyribose methylphosphonate/phosphodiester internucleotide linkages.

A21
69. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 68 wherein said oligomer comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of ^{5'}GTTCTCCATGTTAG^{3'} (SEQ ID NO.: 27), ^{5'}TTTATAAGGGTCGATGTCCAT^{3'} (SEQ ID NO.: 28), and ^{5'}AAAGCCACCCAAGGCA^{3'} (SEQ ID NO.: 29).

A22
71. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70 wherein said construct is selected from the group consisting of YEE(ahGalNAc)₃ - SMCC - ^{5'}GTTCTCCATGTTAG^{3'} (SEQ ID NO.: 27), YEE(ahGalNAc)₃ - SMCC - ^{5'}TTTATAAGGGTCGATGTCCAT^{3'} (SEQ ID NO.: 28), and YEE(ahGalNAc)₃ - SMCC - ^{5'}AAAGCCACCCAAGGCA^{3'} (SEQ ID NO.: 29).

Please add the following new claims:

72. (New) The construct of claim 1, wherein the A-L moiety of said construct is YEE(ah-GalNAc)₃-SMCC.

A23
73. (New) The construct of claim 1, wherein said construct is selected from the group consisting of YEE(ahGalNAc)₃ - SMCC - ^{5'}GTTCTCCATGTTAG^{3'} (SEQ ID NO.: